



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-1861, **Agenda Item #:** 20.

5/6/2021

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Front Steps, Inc. to provide bridge shelter and connections to housing for a seventeen month period ending September 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$2,600,000, with three 12-month extension options each in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$6,500,000.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$1,300,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining terms is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### **For More Information:**

Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Assistant Director, Health Equity and Community Engagement Division, 512- 972-5167; Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5567; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5045.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with Front Steps to provide bridge shelter and connection to housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

In April 2020, the City closed on a property located at 2711 S. IH-35 (located in District 3). Federal Community Development Block Grant (also known as CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (also known as HUD) was used for this purchase. The facility was initially used as a temporary Protective Lodging facility (also known as ProLodge) for high-risk individuals in need of non-congregate sheltering during the COVID-19 pandemic. This property will transition to its intended use for bridge sheltering.

On February 4, 2021, City Council approved Resolution No. 20210204-049, directing the City Manager to develop and implement the Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) initiative to connect individuals experiencing homelessness to housing and services in identified areas. This bridge shelter program will be part of the implementation of the HEAL initiative in the community, offering temporary shelter for individuals to stabilize and assist their move into permanent housing.

### **Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.